

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****I CLAIM:**

1. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate for use with a gas barbecue, said plate extending between a grill and a burner of said barbecue, said flavor plate comprising at least two inverted V-shaped sections located side by side relative to one another, said at least two sections together forming at least two peaks and one valley, said valley being located between said peaks, said valley having a plurality of spaced first openings along a lowermost surface thereof with a ridge located between each of said first openings, there being a plurality of ridges, each ridge sloping to one or more first openings located adjacent to each ridge.
2. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said plate has three inverted V-shaped sections with three peaks and two valleys, said plate having an outer portion along each side, each of said outer portions sloping downward and outward, each of said outer portions having a plurality of second openings therein.
3. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate as claimed in Claim 1 wherein there is a central inverted V-shaped section and two outer inverted V-shaped sections, each outer section having an outer portion that slopes downward and outward from a peak, said outer portions of said outer V-shaped sections being substantially longer than an inner portion of said outer V-shaped sections.
4. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said outer portions contain a plurality of oblong second openings therein, said oblong second openings extending laterally on said outer portions.
5. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said first openings along a lowermost surface of said valley have an oblong shape and extend longitudinally along said lowermost surface.
6. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said ridges have a sloped surface, said sloped surface extending to a first opening that is adjacent to each ridge.
7. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said flavor plate has an outer edge extending along each side, each outer edge

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having connectors thereon, said connectors being sized and located to connect said flavor plate to said barbecue.

8. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate and barbecue in combination, said combination comprising a flavor plate mounted between a burner and a grill of said barbecue, there being no briquettes in said barbecue, said flavor plate having at least two inverted V-shaped sections located side by side relative to one another, said at least two sections forming at least two peaks and one valley, said valley having a lowermost surface with space first openings extending along said lowermost surface and ridges located between each of said first openings, said ridges sloping down to any first opening on either side of each ridge, said barbecue having a channel to direct a fluid passing through said first openings to a channel to prevent said fluid from dripping onto said burner.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A flavor plate and barbecue in combination as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the plate has three inverted V-shaped sections with three peaks and two valleys, said plate having ~~another~~ an outer portion along each side, each of said outer portions sloping downward and outward, each of said outer portions having a plurality of second openings therein.

10. (ORIGINAL) A flavor plate and barbecue in combination wherein said plate has a central inverted V-shaped section and two outer inverted V-shaped sections, each outer section having an outer portion that slopes downward and outward from a peak, said outer portions of said outer V-shaped sections being substantially longer than an inner portion of said outer V-shaped sections.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A flavor plate and barbecue in combination as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said ridges have a sloped surface, said sloped surface extending to a first opening that is adjacent to each ridge.